

Worshipping with Children



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

**Park Lake
Presbyterian Church**

www.plpc.org

Families Matter at Park Lake

Children are full, important members of the household of faith and are welcome here.

We abide with the restlessness of children during worship, trusting that the child in our midst will learn:

- I belong to this special company of people.
- My family and many others believe it is important to come to this place each Sunday.
- The symbols, sounds and feel of this place, my church, God's Sanctuary, are good, even though I don't understand everything.
- I may respond in this place with song, prayer and offering in the worship of God.



Worship is...
... an attitude.
... a spiritual experience.
... a gathering of the church family.

Suggestions for worshipping with children:

For Parents:

- ◆ Families are encouraged to sit near the front of the Sanctuary. Children who can see what is happening may feel more involved.
- ◆ We encourage children to use the worship bags and bulletins found by the doors into the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Allow children to write their own names on the friendship pad. It doesn't matter how many lines they use. The pads are useful for learning the names of the people sitting around them.
- ◆ Help children find the hymns, scriptures and prayers. Children learn to worship by participation.
- ◆ Allow children to place the family's offering in the offering plate.
- ◆ Come forward with young or unsure children for the children's message. Children age 3 through first grade may leave for children's church after the message.
- ◆ Talk about worship at home. Look for opportunities to relate the sermon or scripture lessons to something that is happening in your day-to-day life.

For Congregation:

- ◆ Remember the promises we make at the baptism of children who are among us.
- ◆ Hand children the offering plate.
- ◆ Hand children the friendship pad.
- ◆ Understand when parents need to take young ones out and then return during worship.

A Word About the Sacraments

Baptism

Please speak with a co-pastor if you wish for your child to be baptized. Baptism is part of our communal service and all children are invited to come close and observe this sacrament.

Communion

Children are invited to partake in communion. We leave the choice to the family of when children should partake. It is important to let children know God loves them and that we are all God's family.

Sunday Children's Program

- Our nursery is available for infants and toddlers. It is located on the 2nd floor of the Education Building. (9-11:45 AM)
- Children's Sunday School is held on the 3rd floor of the Education Building. (9-10 AM)
- Children's Church is for children age 3 through first grade. The children leave worship after the children's message and return after the sermon. Children's Church provides age appropriate worship through Bible stories and activities.

Seasonal Children's Activities

- Family Picnics
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Vacation Bible School
- Harvest Party
- Gingerbread House Building Event
- Children's Christmas Pageant
- Christmas Caroling



Your family is important here!

- It can be hard for children to sit still for long. God knows this and so do we.
- Children learn to carry on Christian traditions by experiencing them and doing them.
- Be patient with the learning process. We are all children of God.



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